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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION FROM
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REPORT NO. [redacted]

COUNTRY	USSR and Satellites	DATE OF INFORMATION	6 - 12 May 1949
SUBJECT	SOVIET AND SATELLITE RADIO COMMENT ON LIFTING OF THE BERLIN BLOCKADE AND THE APPROACHING CFM CONFERENCE		
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SOURCE

(This is a reproduction of a report prepared in response to a special "rush" request received at 1300, 13 May 1949, with the deadline fixed at 1645 on the same day.)

INTERPRETATION: It is as yet too early for much Soviet or Satellite radio comment on the actual lifting of the blockade. The Soviet radio, in fact, has had surprisingly little to say even about the Four-Power decision on the subject. The broadcast of a NEW TIMES article, Moscow's major comment to date, sees it as vindicating the previous Soviet position—and as an example of the concrete results that can be obtained when the Western Powers "renounce their old tactics" under the influence of the powerful world movement for peace and against aggression. Soviet-controlled German and Satellite radios, to date more vociferous than Moscow, have widely hailed and publicized the decision as another great victory for the consistent Soviet policy of "peace" and for the forces of peace throughout the world. The Paris meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers has not yet received concentrated attention. The above-mentioned NEW TIMES article views the meeting as opening "the possibility of... coordinated decisions on the German problem, giving fresh hopes to common people throughout the world." At the same time, however, occasional German (Soviet-controlled) broadcasts and press editorials, some of which Moscow quotes, see the "unheard-of haste" with which the Bonn Constitution was approved as proof of those "divisionist" schemes which are said to be aiming at "creating a fait accompli" before the Foreign Ministers Conference and at "torpedoing" the Conference before it has started. Satellite radios in Eastern Europe look with approval and hope on the approaching conference; but they warn, to quote Sofia, that "the success of future negotiations (has not yet been) assured."

THE DECISION TO LIFT THE BLOCKADE: The following excerpts, taken from a Soviet radio broadcast of the above-mentioned NEW TIMES article, illustrate the line of Moscow's major commentary (to date) on the significance of the Four-Power decision:

"...millions of common people understood who was in the right (on the question of Germany and Berlin). They drew the right conclusion from the fact that during the last year the USSR attempted three times to bring about a peaceful settlement of the Berlin question; but each time this initiative was met with a refusal of the Anglo-American leaders. ... The publication of (the Four-Power communique) was received with great satisfaction by world public opinion which realized how quickly it was possible to obtain concrete results once the Western Powers renounced their old tactics.

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"The democratic press said that there is little doubt that the Western Powers were influenced by the powerful protest movement against the aggressive Atlantic Pact and by the world-wide mass movement against imperialist military plans."

Thus, Moscow implies what her Satellite radios make explicit: that the Berlin decision was a victory for "the peace-loving USSR and the forces of peace" and a defeat for the "aggressive" policy of the Western imperialists and warmongers. It is of interest that some of the Satellite radios refer to the "historic victory of the People's China" as one of the factors that influenced the Western Powers "to return to quadripartite talks." Other factors cited are: "first, the Soviet Union's persevering peace policy"; and "the influence of the enormous successes of the fight for peace all over the world which reached its climax in the Paris and Prague Peace Congress."

THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS: As indicated above, the NEW TIMES article sees hopeful possibilities in the re-convening of the Council of Foreign Ministers; and it concludes that "the Four-Power decision referring to Germany might become a cornerstone in a post-war settlement." But the Soviet radio also quotes Soviet-controlled German radio and press attacks on the Bonn Constitution, which is linked in turn to the issues to be discussed at the CFM meeting. One Berlin commentator, for example, castigates General Clay, "who... is today still trying to present the Foreign Ministers in Paris with a fait accompli. His masterpiece is the so-called Bonn Constitution, a cuckoo's egg which the four Foreign Ministers ought to ignore if they are earnestly anxious to reach agreement on Germany in the interest of peace." Other Soviet-controlled German radio broadcasts pursue relentlessly this long-established Soviet campaign for "German unity," relating this issue to the forthcoming CFM meeting in Paris.

Broadcasts from Satellite radios in Eastern Europe make more general references to the Paris CFM meetings. They are explicit and definite, however, in identifying the Potsdam agreement as the key to the Soviet position at the Conference.

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